R+ J Rare Coin
Gallery Inc
23W 707 Turner
Roselle Ill 60172
Oct 28, 1981

Mr. Cohen

Since receiving your book - American Half Cents, many of customers have seen it & desire a copy of it.

Is it possible for you to send me 10-15 copies? If so, I will forward you a check. Thank-you for your co-operation.

Sincerely,

Rod Widok

(over)

4701
SANGAMORE
RD

BETHESDA MD
11/3/81

Sorry they sold out of the First edition - The Second Edition should be out in December.

Roger

2/11/84

Rod Widok - EAC #684
2[illegible] W. 70[illegible] Turner
Roselle, Ill. 60172

Roger,

Enclosed you will find an 1804 ½¢ (variety #4) for your examination. If the condition census in the 2nd edition of your book is still accurate, then this piece may well fall in the CC which is the primary reason I would like your examination.

The piece was purchased in Milwaukee last weekend & came from an estate in the Chicago area.

I do have a few questions about the die state of the piece. The reverse has the irregular die crack from the T in STATES, through the wreath to C in AMERICA - which you describe for variety #5. Gilbert, in his 1916 book, noted that some specimens of his variety #10 (your #4) comes with this crack. Any idea as to how many of the known examples of #C-4 exhibit this crack?

On the reverse there doesn't appear to be a crack connecting the bottoms of "states of".

Any info you can supply on CC position & die state would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks,

Rod Widok

P.S. Also enclosed is $5 for return postage & insurance for $500.

82 ½ CR

EATON VF 25
RG - WGL VF-20
BROISSON - BLAIS - 7 VF-3
PINES - SRM VF-20

2/20/84

Rod Widok
23 W 707 Turner
Roselle, Ill. 60172

Dear Rod,

First let me appologize for keeping your coin so long. I usually return them sooner but this is a very busy season for accountants such as myself. In addition I wanted to see what Jim McGuigan graded your 1804 #4 which is enclosed.

I grade the coin an overall F-15. I would grade it a VF-20 except for the rim damage. I'm reasonably sure that damage and not a planchet flaw due to the manufacturing process. All half cents after 1802 are on prepared planchets and manufacturing flaws are seldom.

I also asked a few others for grading opinion and a range of VF-20 to VG-8 was noted. So as you can see the jury is not unanimous in its decision.

The condition census as I have it now but subject to change for publication in "Penny Wise" is as follows.

(1) The Eaton - Dupont specimen pictured in my 2nd Edition. The coin is similar to yours (Grader Sort) and includes a nick on the reverse. It grades VF-25 after deducting 5 points for the nick.

(2) For 2nd through 5th place are 4 VF-20's with no problem.

(3) For 6th through 13th place are 8, Fine 12 to 15 specimens (including yours). Keep in mind however that what I have set forth will probably change. It is obvious to me that Jim McGuigan does not feel that a damaged coin such as yours should even be in the condition census since he graded it a VG-8. So you can see a condition census is subject to a lot of opinion and.

for the Compiler a real headache!

As to the die state this is a rather late one such as the crack from the 4 to the bust on the obverse. The reverse is cracked as described in my book except that the beginning of the crack from C in AMERICA appears to show I believe this to be corrosion as there is a semicircle mark running from tip of the upper leaf toward O of OF. There is a small dash running from the top of the E in STATES which I have seen on other specimens that seem to disappear with use of the die. I also note that the die crack from the 2 of 200 through the ribbon to the U of UNITED is hard to see due to the corrosion.

The Gilbert book lists the #11(C5) cracks for his #10 (C#4) This appears to me to be a Typesetter error in the original book I.E. The die crack paragraph should have followed rather than preceded the description of Gilbert #11

The long diagonal crack which the reverse develops starts at the A of STATES not the T of STATES it appears to me that the long break is due to the die clash that produces the SPIKED CHIN. I have in my collection a #5 in MS-60 condition without the bulge which shows the numerals 180 incused in the area of TAT of STATES. The diagonal crack is just starting and runs from the A of STATES to the wreath and the crack at C of AMERICA is between the rim and wreath passing through C.

I can see on your specimen a slight crack connecting the bottoms of T.E.S._ OF _A. It's weak and what is usually seen on Variety #4

Perhaps the best thing to clear up some of the [illegible] for you to compare your #4 to a #5 one that is in high grade. I presume you are

acquainted with Don Valenzuela who I believe has such a specimen, you might contact him or if your going to EAC 84 Meetings I will be there and I could show you a few of mine.

Again ~~that~~ thank you for allowing me to see you Again

Sincerely
Roger